

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCORPORATING THE REPORT OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1964

URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1964

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor Mrs. A. Taberner, J.P. (Chairman)

Councillor G. H. Nickeas (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors L. Barlow, D. Bennett, J.P., R. Cheetham, A. Evans,
W. C. Love, T. Parkinson, S. Preston, J. A. Simpkin, J.P.,
R. Winstanley, W. Worthington.

HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Councillor R. Cheetham (Chairman)

Councillor A. Evans (Vice-Chairman)

All Members of the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health : R. Schofield, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : W. Coupe, C.R.S.H.I., M.A.P.H.I.,
Certified Inspector of Meat and Food.

Tel. : Wigan 82603-4.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ORRELL.

May, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of Orrell Urban District Council.

Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Orrell for the year 1964. It has been compiled as in previous years, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I would like to take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the officials of the Council, and especially to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. Coupe, for valuable help and co-operation received throughout the year.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have displayed towards me.

I am, Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. SCHOFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,617
Population, Census, 1961 (prov.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,663
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (Mid-1964)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,400
Number of Inhabited Houses :							
(a) Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,528
(b) End of 1964 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,970
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£437,034
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,690

The area is residential with industrial concentration in Kitt Green. The remaining green belt area is the sole remaining buffer between the Wigan/S.W. Lancs. conurbation and the projected New Town development of Skelmersdale.

The sweep of the M6 Motorway has no significance to the area other than a variable noise factor dependent on proximity and the prevailing wind.

VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total</i>		<i>M.</i>		<i>F.</i>
Live Births	}	Legitimate	...	...	190	...	96	...	94
		Illegitimate	...	...	6	...	4	...	2
Total					196	...	100	...	96
Still Births		...	...	...	4	...	1	...	3
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	}	Legitimate.			6	...	6	...	—
		Illegitimate			—	...	—	...	—
Total					6	...	6	...	—
Total No. of Deaths		...	...	...	272	...	128	...	144

Adjusted Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.	16·7
Birth rate for England and Wales	16·3
Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	14·8
Death rate for England and Wales	11·3
Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	20·0
Still birth rate for England and Wales	16·3

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1960-64.

		Infant Mortality													
		Live Births				Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Total		Neo-natal	
		No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births		
ORRELL U.D.C.															
Year 1964	...	166	16.7	272	14.5	4	20.0	Nil	Nil	6	10.2	6	10.2		
Year 1963	...	201	16.8	135	14.4	4	20.0	Nil	Nil	5	25.5	4	20.4		
Year 1962	...	180	16.3	126	14.5	1	5.5	Nil	Nil	3	5.6	1	5.6		
Year 1961	...	198	16.9	130	11.7	5	24.6	Nil	Nil	5	15.2	1	5.1		
Year 1960	...	151	15.4	111	10.5	5	42.0	Nil	Nil	1	6.6	-	-		
Avge. 5 years 1960-64		179.0	16.4	154.8	13.1	3.8	22.4	Nil	Nil	4.0	12.6	5.4	8.2		

Adjusted Live Birth-rate

Death Rate

...

...

...

...

16.7

14.5

The following table shows the chief causes of death and the number of deaths during 1964 compared with the figures of 1963 :

	1964	1963
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	1	—
Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ...	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—
Measles ...	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	—	—
Cancer ...	28	—
Leukæmia and Aleukæmia ...	1	1
Diabetes ...	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	25	25
Coronary disease, Angina ...	31	23
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	2	6
Other Heart Diseases ...	12	16
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	3	3
Influenza ...	—	1
Pneumonia ...	4	7
Bronchitis ...	5	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	3	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions ...	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	1	—
Other and Ill Defined Diseases ...	11	10
Accident, Suicide and other violent causes ...	3	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	2	3
All other causes ...	—	1
Totals ...	136	111

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Arrangements: Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathology Department of the Wigan Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratories, Monsall Hospital, Manchester. When the necessity arises the services of the County Analyst are utilised for Chemical Analysis.

The Disinfestation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, together with the Curator of the National History Museum at Bolton County Borough, provide expert services for the identification of insects and other pests.

Assessments of special food problems are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Colindale and frozen food matters are referred to Low Temperature Research Stations either at Cambridge or Chipping Campden. Other processed foodstuffs and packing problems are referred to the appropriate trade research bureaux.

Liaison exists between the various authorities concerned with Radiation. The U.K.A.E.A. with the Headquarters of the Safety and Health Physics Section at Risley are available for advice on general matters.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were ten cases of Scarlet Fever during the year.

Diphtheria: No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year maintaining the clear record of the District over the past sixteen years.

The following statistics relate to the year 1964, and show the number of children resident in Orrell who were immunised and vaccinated.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Pre-School Children</i>	<i>School Children</i>	<i>Adults</i>
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus) :			
Primary	191	8	—
Re-inforcement	—	5	—
Combined Antigen (Diphtheria and Tetanus) :			
Primary	4	2	—
Re-inforcement	1	213	—

<i>Type</i>	<i>Pre-School Children</i>	<i>School Children</i>	<i>Adults</i>
Diphtheria Only :			
Primary	4	—	—
Re-inforcement	—	11	—
Smallpox Vaccination :			
Primary	54	1	5
Re-vaccination	2	—	1
Poliomyelitis Vaccinations :			
Primary	233	10	4
Re-inforcement	7	118	—

Pneumonia : There were no cases of acute primary pneumonia.

Measles : 73 cases of this disease were notified.

Poliomyelitis : There were no cases of this disease during the year.

Cancer : There were 28 deaths attributable to Cancer.

Facilities for Radium Treatment for Orrell residents is available at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester centre.

Tuberculosis : Five new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. One death arose from the disease. Treatment is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, and Orrell residents attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

Ambulance Services : Infectious, non-infectious, accident and maternity cases are dealt with by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the Ambulance Station at Billinge.

The arrangements are adequate and satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948 : No action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
 NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1964.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods Years										Total deaths	Outward hospital transfer	Inward death transfer
		—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—25	—45	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever ...	(a) 13	—	—	1	1	2	7	2	—	—	—	(b)	(c)	d)
Measles ...	73	1	9	10	9	16	28	—	—	—	—			
Tuberculosis : Respiratory ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—			
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Totals	88	1	9	11	10	18	35	2	—	2	—			

Total ... Nil.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. COUPE, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.

1.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sewerage and Drainage.—We still await the long delayed re-sewerage of the District. The Abbey Lakes area with its group of out-moded septic tanks and the black spot of our Douglas Valley overflow causing unnecessary pollution, are overdue for improvements.

A great deal of improvement has again been effected by the Surveyor's Department in re-building and re-fitting several bad lengths of sewer and/or manholes. Many private works of improvement have been attended and long standing defects remedied.

A surprising number of complaints arise from certain new estates. With the lack of supervision in the past there are now left expensive and unwelcome re-sewering schemes for new properties which have been incorrectly serviced. All too often there does not appear to be legal redress for purchasers of such houses and only the continuance of the present policy of rigorous inspection will prevent further improper drainage schemes being connected to our sewers.

Water Supply.—The area continues to benefit from an ample and potable supply which since the formation of the Makerfield Water Board has been improved out of all recognition. When the final main reservoirs, pumping stations and service grid is complete, there is no question that the reliability of the "Bunter Sandstone" water from the wells at Newton, will become widely appreciated.

A water sample taken proved satisfactory.

Problems relating to buried and lost services on demolition sites have been mutually settled by the offer of the Board to grub out disused services, which in the past must have caused the loss of millions of gallons of water.

There is a vital necessity to press owners and occupiers of premises to protect exposed services especially those serving water closets where colossal waste and many nuisances arise from lack of water for flushing.

Public Conveniences.—The lack of a suitable public convenience in the Kitt Green area has been discussed by the Council and it is hoped that a complete installation including provision of hot water and drying facilities for members of the public will be provided.

Whilst appreciating the need for economy there is also a need for improved facilities in our existing conveniences at the St. James' Road site and at Orrell Post.

Vandalism in public conveniences is an ever-present problem, throwing a heavy burden on the ratepayers. By their actions, the delinquent minority are attempting to deny to the majority the standards of hygiene to which they are entitled.

Sanitary Accommodation :

No. of Privy Middens in the District	...	...	2
„ Closets attached to Privy Middens	...	2	
„ Pail Closets	...	...	Nil
„ Freshwater Closets	...	...	4,120
„ Waste Water Closets	...	...	Nil
„ Dry Ashpits	...	...	2
„ Moveable Ashbins	...	...	4,133
„ Houses on Water Carriage System	...	3,966	

Sanitary Inspections :

No. of Premises Visited	...	...	1,113
„ Visits	...	...	2,411
Nuisances	...	...	280
Nuisances Abated	...	...	211
No. of Notices : (a) Informal	...	...	277
(b) Statutory	...	...	49
Legal Proceedings	...	...	Nil

The following inspections were carried out during the year under the provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts :

Housing (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	670
Sanitary Conveniences	59
Drainage	250
Accumulations	69
Keeping of Animals	11
Inns	36
Enquiries after Infectious Disease	39
Refuse Collection	296
Refuse Disposal	304
Dirty and/or Verminous Premises	71
Tents, Vans, Sheds	17
Miscellaneous	204
Schools	51
House Purchase and Housing Act Visits	241

Schools.—These show great improvements but one outstanding need is for fully protected toilets which can be used in wintry conditions.

School staff and catering workers show an increasing interest in hygiene and the year was noteworthy as being free from Sonne Dysentery outbreaks which have plagued our primary schools for the past few years.

Tent, etc.—No formal camping is permitted within the district. Occasional transient workers station their vans with temporary permission.

Swimming Baths, etc.—The outstanding recreational need is for a pool of some description and despite official and informal approaches, it is unlikely that any school child will receive adequate swimming instruction from any school within the district. Considering the astronomical sums spent on playing fields, gymnasium and recreational facilities and the demand on every hand for the provision of recreation for teenagers and adults, it is confounding and frustrating that these simple needs cannot be met. There must be more pressure and support for adequate swimming facilities available for the local needs and it is significant that the loss of life in Lancashire by drowning exceeds that of any other comparable county.

The presence of perhaps one of the best pools in the County at Wigan will make little difference to the availability for local school children in view of the travelling time involved.

The answer lies in a small district pool in some central position which could be open air to start with and need not be costly. Head teachers canvassed locally state that such a pool would be booked up solid throughout the summer term and this would guarantee a minimal survival income towards maintenance.

Perhaps the answer could be to commence a subscription fund for such a pool if an acceptable site could be found.

Atmospheric Pollution.—Observations kept on industrial installations show that some residual trouble arising from misuse still causes pollution.

Cases are noted where foreign materials are fed into furnaces which would be better used solely for the fuels for which they are designed. The possibility of use of purpose-made incinerators is being explored to minimise these nuisances.

In the main the chief cause of "smog" is the hard core of old fashioned open grates, still the chief source of heating. However, there are many thousands of domestic grates now installed since the Clean Air Acts came into force which could be voluntarily used for burning smokeless fuel and it would be of immense benefit if more people ordered and used the better grades of such fuels and brought nearer the clean air we so desperately need. Clean air is everyone's business and it is a matter of conscience, not compulsion, which will bring about any worthwhile improvement. A smokey chimney should come to be regarded as an anti-social habit.

The Council have taken a lead in pioneering smokeless heating in their new building programme and this indeed is a milestone in the way ahead to clear skies and clean air.

Every immersion heater, night store heater, oil fuel appliances or gas appliances fitted brings improvements which however slight, must ultimately help to clear up our district.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Factories.—Regular inspection of factory conveniences is carried out to ensure maintenance of satisfactory hygienic standards.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1949.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for puposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number of</i>			
	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories under Local Authorities ...	15	33	4	—
(ii) Factories not in (i) under Local Authority ...	16	25	1	—
(iii) Other Premises ...	6	7	—	—
Total ...	37	65	5	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Number of cases in which defects were found

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Referred</i>				
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.I.) ...	3	3	1	1	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	1	1	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	8	7	3	2	—

2.—RODENT CONTROL

The work of controlling and destroying rodents is progressively more complex as the district develops. Alongside the infiltration of industry and its implications, the growth of new housing sites and the demolition of old properties brings new hazards.

Modern industry will not tolerate rodents from economic and health aspects and the old fashioned ignorance of the ruinous damage by rats is avoided wherever possible by joint action both by factory management and local authority employees.

It is a heartening comparison with the tolerance which besets the problem of domestic, garden and agriculture infestations. Despite constant efforts to implant the idea that prompt reporting to the Department will bring relief, occupiers often wait months for a colony to become established before asking for help.

Time is the vital factor in attacking infestations before rodents can become entrenched and breed. Prompt reporting of all signs of rodent infestations are essential to the effective control of rodents within our midst.

The routine treatment of watercourses, tips, sewage installations and sewer manholes damp down the overall load, but we are dependent on the residents of the town for prompt information to secure better control of these pests.

		<i>Type of Property</i>			
		<i>Non-Agricultural.</i>		<i>Agricultural.</i>	
		<i>Dwelling houses.</i>	<i>All other</i>		
(a)	No. of properties in district .	3,970	467	...	16
(b)	No. of properties inspected .	69	41	...	2
(c)	Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) ...	225	131	...	13
(d)	No. of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by :				
	Rats : Major	—	—	...	—
	Minor	120	59	...	5
	Mice : Major	—	—	...	—
	Minor	27	30	...	3
(e)	No. of infested properties treated	239	91	...	3
(f)	Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) ...	608	361	...	27
(g)	No. of “ Block ” schemes carried out ...	4	1	...	—
(h)	Any other action : Representations made regarding the heavily infested Douglas Valley which constitutes a local reservoir having boundaries in four Local Authority areas.				

3.—HOUSING

Local Authority.—With the continuing policy of providing additional old persons dwellings the pressure on our Housing Lists is easing.

Often, two or three bedroomed accommodation is retained by people whose families have long since left home and with the new single units becoming available, many family houses are being released.

There is one stumbling block to the general raising of standards and that is the domestic one created when the children of Council House tenants marry and come to require accommodation. It is natural that when over-crowding arises in our own housing it must receive priority, but it must be recognised that the problem house helps to make the problem family. If sufficient Council Houses are not available for these unfortunates, a number of sub-standard houses reasonable repaired and fitted should be acquired on sites not ripe for redevelopment and used for difficult cases.

Slum Clearance re-housing is a patchwork where in blocks of houses long condemned stand derelict whilst the last remaining tenant lingers on in a dangerous and unhealthy house years after the first tenants have been re-housed.

There is urgent need for the Council to review its programme of re-housing slum tenants and all moves should be synchronised so that we do not have derelict patches of vulnerable re-development land awaiting clearance and of neither use nor ornament to the town.

The Council must eventually make up its mind to purchase such areas as and when they become available. The fact that Development Companies have purchased slum sites may provide the Local Authority with a problem in the future when they decide to tidy up the areas, by their own re-development.

The Rent Act, 1957.—This enactment at the best serves to protect the weakest from the strongest, but as a general method of improving housing accommodation, it has not been utilised by the people for whom it was designed.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1964.—A move to step up the operation of the Standard Grant Scheme was made by the proposal to designate the Far Moor Area an Improvement Area under the Act.

The resultant canvas showed that out of 100 houses canvassed 52 of the owners or occupiers concerned were in favour of either the full or reduced standard amenities. The remaining 48 houses canvassed either already had the amenities provided, or, some being old-age pensioners, felt that the provision was unnecessary. One or two owners flatly refuse to have anything to do with the Scheme.

The result has been that together with realistic enquiries, the pace has doubled in this area. There have, in addition, been further enquiries from the rest of the district and in all, the Act is working out as well as could be expected. We are nearing the stage that a house will be considered as approaching unfitness if it lacks the five amenities of bath, wash basin, indoor toilet, hot water system and a proper food store. The latter item is the one least understood necessitating as it does the provision of a space which is ventilated and has included a cold slab to keep food cool and fresh.

Slum Clearance.—A realistic assessment of our Slum Clearance programme shows that despite having demolished and closed over 200 houses in the past programme, we still have to clear a similar number before we can be said to have made a real impression of the Housing problem.

4.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954)

Nil.

5.—HOUSING ACT, 1949 : DISCRETIONARY GRANTS, ETC.

No action was taken in the district to implement the improvement of private or publicly owned houses with public funds.

6.—RENT ACT, 1957.

Analysis of action taken by Local Authority under Repair procedure.

Part I : Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

(1) Number of applications for certificates	...	...	4
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	—
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	4
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	4
(b) in respect to all defects	...	...	—

(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	4
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ...	—
(6)	Number of Certificates issued	4
Part II : Applications for Cancellation of Certificates :		
(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates	—
(8)	Objection by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	—
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objections	—
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ...	—

SLUM CLEARANCE.

HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Persons Displaced</i>
(1) Houses demolished or closed during the year :		
(a) Housing Act, 1957 :		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 17(1))	58	74
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Sections 16, 17 and 35, and still in force ...	2	9
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 18)	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1949 :		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	Nil

*No. of
Houses*

(2) Repairs during the year :

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ... | 93 |
| (b) | Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied : | |
| | (i) By owners | 14 |
| | (ii) By local authority | Nil |
| (c) | Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Section 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit : | |
| | (i) By owners | 3 |
| | (ii) By local authority | — |

7.—ERECTION OF NEW HOMES.

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) | By Local Authority | 41 |
| (b) | By other Authorities | Nil |
| (c) | By other bodies and persons | 139 |

8.—HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959
STANDARD GRANTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Action during the year : | <i>No. of
dwellings or
other buildings
affected</i> |
| (a) Submitted to local authority ... | 29 |
| (b) Approved by local authority ... | 29 |
| (c) Work completed | 29 |

9.—PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection.—The necessity to maintain a regular removal of household refuse is well appreciated and the Council have made efforts in testing mechanical methods of bin handling and the gradual adoption of the paper sack method of collection in its newest housing projects. We have had to employ additional casual labour throughout the year owing to repeated mechanical breakdowns and staff sickness.

The growth of the town together with complications in collection make inroads in the progress achieved so that we are constantly found with a back log of work defying our prolonged efforts to catch up with previous standards, much less achieve better collections which are so urgently required.

As far as equipment is concerned we have to face replacement of one vehicle and prepare for running repairs to the mechanical lift, unless this is scrapped and hand loading adopted for this newer vehicle. This lift originally designed for dustless loading has not been successful as instead of a simple lever lift we had to accept a twin rope winch drive which is difficult to synchronise, is slow in operation and laborious and expensive to maintain. All newer machines use the lever method we originally specified and have the advantage of low loading heights which is precluded in our case by the high pressure plate we have to clear. In all it is recommended that the vehicle reverts to hand loading with a speed-up in collection and releasing the team from the delays which the present lift occasions.

A more significant step towards cleaner handling of the town's refuse would be the wider adoption of the paper sack system which is proving itself in our own housing schemes.

Whilst discussing bins the figure of 200 bin replacements per year is not giving rise to much hardship, although the figure implies over a twenty-year life for the district as a whole. This is quite unrealistic and we are finding that recently built houses are demanding a far too quick replacement time, sometimes less than two years. When we realise that older houses have bins over twenty years old and still in fair condition, it is obvious that the Council's requirement that the original bin should last seven years, is reasonable. It is strongly suggested that even our B.S.S. bin is less substantial than the older type bins which have stood up so well. The policy of purchasing the lowest priced bin is no doubt satisfying financially but in the long term may be false economy.

Summary of Refuse Collection :

		1963	...	1964
No. of Ashpits and Privies emptied	...	69	...	37
No. of bins emptied	... ..	171,820	...	163,825
No. of loads of refuse removed	... ..	1,287	...	1,268

Tipping.—We are rapidly approaching the stage when the dumping of crude refuse in the nearest hole, and eventually covering it with spoil and later still with soil, is becoming impracticable. Not only is there very little room left for this method, but there is a rising standard in such matters and whilst we had to use middens and pail closets in up to quite recent times, the residents quite rightly expect that all wastes are quickly and expeditiously removed and as innocuously as possible. The present site even extended will only last a handful of years and it is a hard fact that there is little or no prospect of finding tipping space in our own district which consists either of built-up areas or “preserved” stretches where either for planning, health or aesthetic considerations, a tip would be unacceptable.

It is suggested that co-operation with neighbouring authorities with similar difficulties will lead to the best means of solving the problem. Facilities and equipment could be shared, with consequent economy. As an alternative to controlled tipping in a communal area, the modern mechanical and biological methods of disposal which are too expensive for a small authority could also be considered.

The present tip is rapidly approaching completion and we have been lucky over the past two years in finding covering often barely for the price of haulage. This has taxed our time and patience so that to find even a handful of loads of soil has been a long and arduous task.

The necessity to replace the old tractor on rubbers with a tracked vehicle is most obvious when we note the cost of tyre repairs and delays, so that we are not only faced with an expensive period of buying soil to finally cover the tip, but must buy a machine to do the work, and employ an experienced man to operate the machine.

Staff.—The necessity to retain temporary staff during breakdowns, holiday periods and sickness has again overspent our allocation. This periodic nature of demands on our services must be expected in small districts whose staff and facilities are so small that there is no buffer to rely on when a man falls sick or a machine fails.

Salvage.—A total of 44 tons of waste paper was separated and hand baled during the year. To increase output the bonus system was introduced, but is barely attractive to a man on a high tax bracket. Mechanical baling with presses costing up to £500 might increase separation but would not be economic if costed out actuarially. The side benefits of reduced tipping space and improved control are worth considering and when the old hand press finally wears out it would be advisable to install a mechanical press.

10.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The necessity for ceaseless vigilance in the supervision of food processing and handling has been drastically brought into the limelight by the Aberdeen typhoid epidemic. Whilst the exception of one poor consignment from a solitary establishment might be held to indicate that the normal is safe, it is not altogether certain that all the food imported, grown, prepared and sold is in itself pure, and cannot be contaminated. So much obscure illness and unexplained sickness might be food borne in addition to this single classical outbreak. Our own local problem is of course of some magnitude with the overall responsibility for the Heinz organisation resting fully on our shoulders, and the pressure at and after Aberdeen was onerous. The risks run were real enough to warrant bacteriological and physical checks, and with thousands of food handlers at risk under one roof we had to be doubly sure that accidental introduction of any infection was not possible. Thorough checks were carried out with this in mind.

Food hygiene in general, however, did receive a boost following the disaster and it was perhaps opportune that the premises involved in Aberdeen were ostensibly in good order. We are always safer when premises and equipment is satisfactory but the bitter lesson is learned that the human element is the chief risk. This experience helps us in outlining risks to food handlers and the necessity to stress immediate and adequate hand washing after using toilets, and the prompt and thorough cleansing of all utensils and equipment daily, or even oftener if required, is more obvious.

The fact that waste food and uncontrolled rubbish are the chief attractments of pests, which are also often sheltered in or under sheds, etc., must be mentioned as a grievous fault.

There are defects in handling requiring alteration and not the least is the retention of preserved food at incorrect and dangerous temperatures. Meat is still cooked overnight in canteens

Pies, puddings and many other cooked foods are left for hours at dangerous temperatures, the motto "stone cold or piping hot" being forgotten. Far too many perishable foodstuffs are stored for excessive periods without regard to the instructions laid down. Imported meats labelled "To be kept Under Refrigeration" can be found stored in out-houses under a hot tin roof.

The food trade cannot be complacent in these days of massive movement of perishable foods, nor can Food Inspectors hope for freedom from troubles whilst faulty practices and risks remain under our noses.

Food Traders : Persons trading in food from vehicles, stalls, etc., pose their own problems mainly connected with the cleanliness of equipment and exposure of food to contamination. Constant watch is kept on the methods used by such traders.

The sale and handling of food in the open air from vans, etc., often causes concern and whilst most traders make reasonable efforts to adopt hygienic handling methods, the "built in" disadvantages of lack of permanent hot water and lack of proper cooling facilities for perishable food make these operations really hazardous.

An itinerant trader from a "hot dog" and candy floss stall was prosecuted during the year and heavy fines were inflicted by the Magistrates for serious contraventions of the Food and Drugs Acts and Regulations. Stocks of food were seized and condemned as unfit for consumption.

Similarly, a consignment of pork amounting to several tons in weight was seized and condemned when consigned to a local food factory. The responsibility for its condition could have been ascribed to several persons but satisfactory evidence of failure or neglect was impossible to find. The loss amounted to some hundreds of pounds. The incident bore out my long held contention that the handling of transport of perishable commodities is still far too lax and often the trader is at the mercy of shippers, merchant and transport undertakings whose facilities are unsafe for the foodstuffs handled.

With astronomic amounts of raw and part processed foods coming into the district to one establishment, the need to participate in preventive work from a public health and legal aspect is becoming more and more obvious.

So much foreign food is now imported that a great deal of time is taken and much more will be needed in future to ensure that all processed food factories and the personnel employed there, are not unduly at risk from such sources.

Canteens, kitchens, restaurants and licensed houses also give rise to many risks. Mainly the defects concern the exposure of cooked meats, pies, confectionery and cream to contamination and here in particular, the exhortation to "NOW WASH YOUR HANDS" needs special emphasis.

Again the risks associated with inaccurate temperature control arise and few traders realise that a safe temperature should be held for the particular foodstuff concerned. The golden rule of piping hot or stone cold applies and no cooking of meats, gravies and preparation of creams, etc., until required for use. The overnight preparation of meat joints is one of the most obvious yet commonly met hazards in kitchen hygiene.

Refuse storage and collection are checked at all food establishments and associations with pests traced and remedied.

Licensed Premises : There have been positive results to our drive for improved toilet accommodation with a number of houses being radically rebuilt. In nearly all cases we have secured better sanitary and washing facilities for customers and staff. If we had been as successful with the efforts to obtain the use of direct pumps without devices for returning slops to barrels, we would have been happier. Likewise, the pressure to get the public to ask for a clean glass with each drink and improved washing methods is slow to be adopted, but once initiated, neither the publican nor the public want to go back.

With catering becoming more acceptable in licensed premises, the necessity for control of methods of preparation, handling and storage becomes apparent.

Sampling : Routine sampling takes place of food and drink if suspected of causing infection. Milk and ice cream are the usual items sent for testing.

Below are details of the samples obtained in the Urban District of Orrell under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 during 1964 by the Lancashire County Council :

A total of 46 samples was obtained, consisting of 18 samples of milk (3 of which were Channel Islands milk) and 28 others, comprising :—

1 Liquid Paraffin B.P.	2 Olive oil B.P.
1 Veganin tablet	1 Cocoa
1 Tea	1 Coffee extract, dried
1 Baking Powder	1 Custard Powder
1 Almond oil	1 Borax
1 Rice	1 Lard
1 Barley	3 Plain Flour
1 Mincemeat	1 Jam
1 Christmas pudding	2 Self raising flour
1 Custard powder	1 Brown bread (part loaf)
1 Caster sugar	1 Sugar
1 Glycerine	1 Tincture of iodine

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of one sample of brown bread (part loaf) which contained a streak of browner dough weighing approximately $8\frac{1}{2}$ grammes, probably caused by inadequate mixing or inadvertent addition of brown flour to dough. The loaf was otherwise genuine. The appropriate action was taken by your Inspector in checking the whole of the production methods of the firm concerned.

Milk and Dairies.: The necessity for strict control of milk is obvious when incidents affecting the bacteriological purity of the milk occur. With the reduction of milk borne tuberculosis to negligible proportions, the threat of brucellosis which is transmissible to humans has assumed relatively greater importance.

Herds can have the disease running intermittently through the cows with positive results widespread in the milk. Where such milk is sold as Farm bottled and not pasteurised before sale, the hazard is real.

Three herds were found to be affected and one selling farm bottled milk was stopped and pasteurised milk substituted.

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Raw Milk :			
(1) Tuberculosis : biological.	4	Nil	4
(2) Methylene Blue ...	2	2	Nil
(3) Brucella Ring Test ...	24	10	14

Food Premises : Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at the end of the year :

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No.</i>
General Grocers and Provision Dealers	36
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (licensed, those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	9
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	10
Bakers and/or Confectioners	6
Fried Fish Shops	5
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	14
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and similar establishments	25
Others	14

Number of food premises, by type, registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under local acts :

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No. Registered at end of year</i>	<i>No. of inspections made during the year</i>
Sweets and General	28	83
Bakehouses, butchers, Food Factories	7	71

Inspections : The following number of inspections of food premises other than those referred to above were made during the year :

Bakehouses	54
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	34
Grocers' Shops	82
Greengrocers	31

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	65
Fish Fryers' Premises and preserved foods	...					58
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	37
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	41
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	42
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	10

Meat: There are no licensed slaughter houses within the District. Butchers purchase supplies from Wigan or Stanley Abattoirs.

There has been need to draw the attention of meat traders to the necessity for separate handling of cooked meat and meat products when these foodstuffs are traded in together with raw meat and offals. The necessity for separate cutting blocks, knives, etc., to prevent gross infection from organisms known to be present on carcass meat, etc., emphasised as well as the more obvious risks associated with inadequate cleansing of slicing and display areas. The exposure of cooked meats, pies, puddings, etc., is still seen far too often, but the growth of the chilled display cabinet is a welcome move in the right direction. Difficulties in connection with the bulk transport of meat and the exposure of meat and meat products in inadequately cooled vans have been met and traders selling such products on the streets should exercise the same safeguard as would be expected of a butchers shop. There is need for stricter controls of the holding temperatures of all cooked foodstuffs held for sale, and in this connection the grossly over-loaded frozen food cabinet which is lacking in simple maintenance and run on far too high a temperature, should rapidly be coming a thing of the past. Refrigerated equipment used for its own particular purpose is a boon to the food trader and his customers, can be a menace if not used within its limitations.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-54: No animals were slaughtered within the district during the year.

EXAMINATION OF FOOD STOCKS OR CONSIGNMENTS DURING THE YEAR

Type of Food	Total quantity of stock consignment examined	Quantity condemned (weight in lbs.)
Pork	11200	11200 lbs.
Tomato Puree	100931	11407 lbs
Peeled Tomatoes	10921	5207 lbs.
Tuna Fish	10293	479 lbs.
Orange Juice	3504	788 lbs.
Beans... ..	31586	2225 lbs.
Polish Ham	24	14 lbs.
Corned Beef	144	4 lbs.
Strained Foods	4914	1246 lbs.
Junior Foods	11473	4369 lbs.
Apples	4	4 lbs.
Water Cress	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

